Parity in procurement of equipment

1913. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is demanding for parity in procurement of equipment with private telecom operators; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Given the nature of public and private sectors, there cannot be an absolute parity between them in the matter of procurement. While BSNL has not demanded any parity in procurement of equipment with private telecom operators, its concern was in respect of the proposed initiative of promoting indigenous telecom manufacturing in its procurements.

(b) Indigenous manufacture of telephone equipments is felt desirable with the objective, *inter alia*, of the availability of desired quality/standard products at competitive rates, immediate availability of after-sales services and development of new technologies in the Country. A procurement framework, whereby only vendors who indigenously manufacture (or have definite plans to do so) certain telecom products are alone eligible for procurement is under active consideration by BSNL and MTNL.

Computerisation of post offices in NER

1914. SHRI .T.R. ZELIANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post offices in the States of North Eastern Region which have been computerised so far;

(b) the number of post offices to be computerised during the financial year 2005-06, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to computerise all existing Post Offices of North Eastern Region including Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 29 Head